

STB Docket FD 35952

Mr Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

June 1, 2016

The LaPorte County, Indiana RAILED group has attended numerous scoping meetings held by the STB. We have listened to the presentations made concerning the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation construction of a railroad into middle and western LaPorte County, Indiana, terminating at Pinola ,Indiana and the other at Kingsbury, Indiana. LaPorte County RAILED strongly objects to the devastating destruction of prime farm land for the construction of this proposed rail road. LaPorte County , as well as all of Northwest Indiana have in place one of the best serviced rail systems in the United States, not to mention the many unused abandoned rail lines.

LaPorte County RAILED has reviewed the GLBT plan and believes that there are Alternate Routes that can reach the same objectives stated by the GLBT using existing rail lines and abandoned right of ways. Following this letter is a detailed presentation about an alternate route using the Norfolk Southern Kankakee Branch and abandoned sections of the former Kankakee Branch and Monon Railroad right of way from Belshaw, In to a point north of Wanatah,In via San Pierre, In. This alternate proposal makes the same connections as proposed GLBT route, while preserving a vast amount of prime Indiana farm land.

- The proposed San Pierre Alternate avoids taking of over 36 miles of prime farm land for railroad right of way.

- It would result in a net reduction of 24 miles of prime land for right of way.
- It eliminates the need for 3 highway overpasses.

The RAILED Group requests that the STB carefully review this alternate plan in lieu of the plan proposed by the GLBT across Porter and LaPorte County, Indiana.

Respectively,

LaPorte County RAILED
Steve Jensen